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INFO SAL 01, GPM 03, SC 01, RSC 01, USIA 12, H 02, NSC 10, L 03, INR 07, P 04,
CIA 04, DOD 01, SP 02, SS 35, NSAE 00, SAH 03, AID 30, E 19, RSR 01,
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R 061015Z OC 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8276
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4469
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
AMCONSUL DANANG 1073
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2700

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 1/20/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7796

SUBJECT: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS: DINH TUONG

REF: SAIGON 6812

1. REFTEL REPORTED BASIC BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON THE 32 PERSON WHO INITIALLY FILED FOR THE TWO LOWER HOUSE SEATS AT STAKE IN DINH TUONG. TEN HAVE BEEN DISQUALIFIED OR HAVE WITHDRAWN. NGUYEN THANH VINH, PHAM VAN CHINH, NGUYEN TRI CACH, NGUYEN QUAN MINH, LE VAN HAI, PHAM THANH LIEM,

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AND NGUYEN VAN THAN ALL WITHDREW. PHAM VAN HUAN AND LE DAI TOAN WERE EXCLUDED FOR INCOMPLETE DOCUMENTATION. LE THIEN DIEN FAILED TO MAKE THE REQUIRED DEPOSIT. NO CANDIDATES WERE EXCLUDED FOR CAUSE.

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2. LEADING CADIDATES:

A. PHAM QUAN TIHH, LAWYER. STUDIED LAW IN SAIGON, HAS PRACTICED IN MY THO LAST THREE YEARS. TINH IS CATHOLIC AND REPORTEDLY HAS SUPPORT OF BROTHER OF BISHOP OF MY THO. TINH SAYS HE HAS MANY FRIENDS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE WHOM HE HAS MADE WHILE ACCOMPANYING MOBILE CIRCUIT COURTS. TINH SAYS MAIN ISSUE IN LOWER HOUSE ELECTION IS PEACE AND NEGOTIATIONS; TAKES HARD LINE ON NEGOTIATIONS. MAY HAVE SOME SUPPORT FROM VNQDD BUT IS NOT A PARTY MEMBER.

B. NGUYEN BA CAN, PRESENTLY DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF FOR ADMINISTRATION (DPCA) IN LONG AN. CAREER CIVIL SERVANT, CAN WAS DPCA IN DINH TUONG 1959-62 AND DPCA VUNG TAU BEFORE THAT. HAS ALSO SERVED AS DISTRICT CHIEF IN DINH TUONG. CAN IS WELL KNOWN AND RESPECTED IN DINH TUONG

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AND MAY HAVE SUPPORT FROM SOME PROVINCE OFFICIALS. CAN IS ALSO WELL REGARDED BY THOSE AMERICANS WITH WHOM HE HAS WORKED. CAN'S PLATFORM INCLUDES LAWS TO ENSURE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, PRESS AND ASSEMBLY BECAUSE WITHOUT THESE FREEDOMS "POWER TO ELECT IS USELESS." CAN ALSO ADVOCATES INCREASE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

C. PHAM VAN HOC, CHAIRMAN LOCAL CVT, CHAIRMAN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL. HOC SUPPORTED GVN TICKET IN PRESIDENTIAL RACE (ALTHOUGH DEPUTY CVT CHAIRMAN THRIEU VAN TUAT WAS HUONG REPRESENTATIVE IN DIN TUONG). HOC HAS LESS ADMINISTRATIVE AND EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS THAN TINH OR CAN BUT HE ENJOYS SUPPORT FROM CVT, AND IS STILL WELL KNOWN.

3. CANDIDATES WITH SOME CHANCE:

A. PHAM VAN NHAC, BUDDHIST, RAN SECOND IN CONSTITUENT ASEMBLY ELECTION. NHAC IS ONE OF SEVERAL TEACHERS (PHAM VAMRHOMX AND TRAN BA PHAM) RUNNING IN DINH

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TUONG, ALL OF WHOM APPEAR ASSOCIATED WITH SOUTHERN REOAONEGW#
LIST GROUPS. PHAM GNIN LEADING CA TICKET WITH TUAT.

B. ARVN MAJOR DANG BAT, ASSI
STANCE OF IV CORPS
MILITARY SECURITY SERVICE, CHIEF
K IV CORPS HEADQUARTERS,
CAN THO. BAT WAS CHIEF OF MY THO GARRISON 1965-66,
CATHOLIC, HAS FRENCH HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION. CAMPAIGN
PLATFORM EXPRESSES HIS DUTY TO REPRESENT PEO
PLE HK GOVERN-
MENT WHICH NOT ALWAYS AWARE OFTRUE SITUATION AT LOCAL LEVEL.

4. AMONG OTHER CANDIDATES WORTH MENTIONING ARE LE VAN KIEN,
WHO WAS CAN LE DISTRICT CHIEN
15 YEARS AGO AND PHAM KIEM XIEN,
A SAIGON CONTRACTOR SAID TO HAVE MANY CONTACTS IN DINH TUONG.

5. PEOPLE APPEAR MORE INTERESTED IN LOWER HOUSE THAN IN
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, LARGELY BECAUSE LEADING CANDIDATES
ARE WELL KNOWN LOCALLY. POOR TURNOUT MAY BE SOMEWHAT
LESS. HOWEVER,
AS GET-OUT-THE-VOTE EFFORT PROBABLY
WILL NOT BE AS GREAT. USUAL CYNICISM ABOUT ELECTIONS
APPERAS SOMEWHAT REDUCED BECAUSE LEADING CANDIDATES

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ARE CLEARLY QUALIFIED AND HAVE EXPERIENCE. NO
CANDIDATE KNOWN TO BE RUNNING ON PEACE PLATFORM.
LOCKE

AS RECEIVED.

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